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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: The summer sun throws its intensity upon us, O Lord, with free abandon.

The growth of the Earth responds readily to its heat; but the temperature of the human body is just enough to keep us healthy.

Cool tempers and agitation, Lord, with the gentle breeze of Your spirit.

Help the Members of Congress today in their deliberations and plans for the Nation's security and peace.

The present burdens are light enough when they earn for us the eternal weight of Your glory, which is beyond comparison.

May the inner balance of nature and the external graces You provide guide America through the present to lay the foundation of hope for the world and for eternal glory above all else.

For out of nowhere, Lord, You can stir the wind now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PALLONE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minutes on each side.

H.R. 3268, EMINENT DOMAIN TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2005

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3268, the Eminent Domain Tax Relief Act of 2005. I introduced this bill to ensure tax fairness for all who lose any type of property through eminent domain. No longer will victims of eminent domain suffer the added insult of an IRS bill while their home or business is taken by the government.

In the wake of the recent Supreme Court eminent domain decision, there is a rumbling across this great land. The American people know what this rumbling is. It is the sound of government bulldozers driven by IRS agents heading toward a condemned property near you. However, the United States House of Representatives has committed itself to stopping eminent domain abuse and restoring over two centuries' worth of property protections.

I believe that H.R. 3268 will go a long way in that fight. It is time to get the tax man and the government steamrollers off the backs of America's private property owners.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in this fight and to cosponsor the Eminent Domain Tax Relief Act.

THE ROVE SCANDAL MOVES TO A STATE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENT

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it has almost been 2 weeks since we first learned Karl Rove leaked the identity of Valerie Plame to a reporter at Time, and then confirmed the identity for Bob Novak. Yesterday we learned that a State Department document includ-

ing the information about Plame's CIA ties also included a giant "S" on it, meaning that the information was secret.

For 2 weeks now, some Republicans have said that Rove did nothing wrong because the information leaked to the reporters was not confidential. Well, now we know that is simply not true and the giant "S" on the State Department document proves it. It is now clear the information Rove leaked to the reporters was secret and should not have been shared.

When Rove became Bush's right-hand man, he signed a classified information nondisclosure agreement. In that agreement he vowed to keep quiet about intelligence information until he could confirm that it was not classified.

Mr. Speaker, at the very least President Bush should revoke Karl Rove's security clearance. Rove has clearly shown that he cannot be trusted, and yet he continues to have access to information critical to our national security. I really think it is time for the President to fire Karl Rove.

HONORING ADMIRAL FARRAGUT

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow Tennessean and our Navy's first admiral, David Glasgow Farragut.

Farragut was born in Campbell's Station, Tennessee, near the city of Knoxville. One of the largest, fastest-growing and most beautiful communities in my district is named in his honor. Raised in a Navy family, Farragut sailed on the Essex as a young boy during the War of 1812, took command of his first ship when he was only 12 years old, and later grew to prominence as a Union hero during the Civil War.

He was the first to prove naval forces could seize control of an entire city

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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when he led the Union Navy to the capture of New Orleans in 1862. And his command, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead" during his victory at Mobile Bay has become legendary.

As a result of Farragut's tremendous service, Congress established the ranks of rear admiral, vice admiral and admiral. Amazingly, he was the first person to hold each of these titles.

Tomorrow in Bath, Maine, the Navy will christen its newest guided missile destroyer as the USS Farragut. This recognition of Farragut's contribution to our naval tradition is a fitting tribute to one of our Nation's greatest military heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I consider it a privilege to recognize Admiral Farragut on the House floor today. He was a true Tennessee hero and one of our greatest Americans.

COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBER OF IRAQ NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, since the 12th of June, there has been an embargo on the American press for reporting on a letter written by the Iraqi legislature. For that reason I will read it here today:

"As the National Assembly is the legitimate representative of the Iraqi people and the guardian of its interests, and as the voice of the people, especially with regard to repeated demands for the departure of the occupation, we note that these demands have earlier been made in more than one session but have blatantly been ignored from the Chair. Worse still is the Government's request to the U.N. Security Council to extend the presence of the occupation forces, made without consultation with the people's representative in the National Assembly who hold the right to make such fateful decisions.

"In line with our historic responsibility, we reject the legitimization of the occupation and we repeat our demand for the departure of the occupation forces, especially since our national forces have been able to break the back of terrorism and to notably establish its presence in the Iraqi street and to recover the state's dignity and the citizen's trust in the security forces leading to the noble objectives in an Iraq whose sovereignty is not embellished.

"Peace and God's Mercy and Blessings be Upon You.

"Falah Hasan Shanshal."

This letter was signed by at least 126 members of the 275-member democratically elected Iraqi parliament and it gets nothing in the American press.

Everyone should know this.

JUDGE JOHN ROBERTS DESERVES A FAIR CONFIRMATION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, since the moment Justice O'Connor announced her resignation, President Bush has met with an unprecedented number of people of both political parties. His thorough and sound selection process has proven he is dedicated to nominating an impartial, highly qualified person to the Supreme Court.

The President's selection of Judge John Roberts is good for our country. Upon his nomination to the D.C. Circuit, 152 members of the D.C. bar wrote to the Senate Judiciary Committee to note that Judge Roberts is "one of the very best and most highly respected appellate lawyers in the Nation." Throughout his accomplished legal career, Judge Roberts demonstrated that he will fairly interpret and apply the Constitution.

Judge Roberts is a man of great integrity who deserves a civil and swift confirmation process. The United States Senate has already unanimously expressed its confidence in Judge Roberts. I am hopeful that the Senate will confirm his appointment to the United States Supreme Court before the fall term begins.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September 11 and the London attacks.

"CATCH AND RELEASE"

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, about half the people caught crossing our borders illegally are from some other country than Mexico. They come from places like Colombia, Nicaragua, Brazil, Egypt, Poland, the Philippines, China, Syria, Russia and even France. But the detention facilities for these illegals are full. That means many, about half, are released on their own recognizance. That means on their word they promise to return for a deportation hearing. That means they are supposed to stay here, not leave. That further means 86 percent of those individuals never return for their hearing, according to USA Today.

Are we surprised? This catch-and-release policy defies common sense. It wastes the efforts of our border agents. It does not provide consequences for illegally coming to the United States. Giving illegals a get-out-of-jail-free card is further evidence the United States must have an immigration plan that works.

Everybody wants to live in the United States but everybody cannot live in the United States. We must have a policy that promotes legal immigration and prevents illegal immigration. This catch-and-release policy must cease.

COBB COUNTY SCHOOL SUCCESS

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, when President Bush started his first term, he challenged our educational system to end the soft bigotry of low expectations. Some of my colleagues objected to the accountability necessary. Students must be challenged to achieve. We must insist on results in our classrooms rather than accepting the status quo.

Students and teachers in Cobb County, Georgia, have accepted the challenge and excelled. Pope, Walton, Kennesaw Mountain, and Lassiter High Schools have some of the highest percentages of students meeting and exceeding standards in the entire State of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of all the teachers and students who dedicate themselves and work so diligently to make these achievements. I am excited about what is happening with education in my district. Challenging students to excel and insisting on accountability are the keys. Administrators, parents, teachers and students are to be congratulated. I am proud of the steps the Cobb County school system has taken to provide quality education to our children, some of the best in the State.

CIVIL LIBERTIES

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House of Representatives made permanent many of the provisions of the PATRIOT Act which have caused great concern across this country with respect to undermining basic civil liberties. When we sing the Star Spangled Banner, we ask a question, "Does that star spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?"

Francis Scott Key when he wrote the Star Spangled Banner understood the connection between freedom and bravery, between democracy and courage. We must work to create a Nation where we encourage the people of America to be free of fear. We must work to create a Nation where we are not afraid to celebrate our civil liberties.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3070, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 370 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows: